

“Preparedness Starts With You!” For Schools Campaign

Overview

Introduction This document is an information sheet for school staff to explain the “Preparedness Starts With You! For Schools” Campaign. This program encourages students to initiate a personal preparedness conversation with their families. A Family Disaster Plan and Family Checklist will be sent home with each student to initiate the conversation.

Each student should return the checklist to school to be collected by PTA members. For students who return the completed checklist, they will receive a free T-shirt from the Office of Emergency Services.

Background The County of San Diego's Office of Emergency Services, County Office of Education, Vista Unified School District and Fallbrook Union School District have all partnered in this campaign to encourage personal preparedness. There are also a number of community partners who will participate in the process.

The goal is for each family to become better prepared to take care of themselves following a major disaster in the area. By involving the schools, we feel we have an additional opportunity to educate the community. We've initiated a contest with both school districts, elementary versus elementary and middle versus middle schools, which for the schools with the highest percentage of returned checklists will have items donated to their school emergency cache. Companies have donated water, a defibrillator including training and other items to the winning schools.

Items to be Distributed There are three items to be sent home with each student.

1. Family Disaster Plan: The plan is an easy to follow brochure that provides helpful tips to individuals and families on how they can prepare themselves to be self-sustained for at least 72 hours following a disaster.
2. Family Checklist: The Checklist is the form to initiate the discussion with the family and the form that needs to be returned to the school for each student to receive his/her free T-shirt.
3. The Parent Letter: This informational sheet explains the program to the student's parent.

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Overview, Continued

Talking Points

Our goal is to have each teacher explain the program to the students in a way that they understand the process. In no way do we expect that each class will be able to discuss the background in the same manner because of the age of the students. Key topics of discussion could be fire prevention, or for those who can or do remember Katrina, or any potential disasters that Southern California is prone too such as earthquakes. For older children, you can reference the 2003 Firestorms, the Hurricanes in the Gulf States, or the recent earthquake in Hawaii.

Discussion should involve the school's plans for fire and earthquake drills. Students should also know how to evacuate their homes and where they will meet outside of their home. The information dispersed will allow them to do that with their families.

The documentation also stresses the need to prepare themselves, their pets, and to have the necessary food and water to take care of each family member. Who they should call out of the area to provide their status or the lockdown procedures at the school are a few other ways to introduce the subject matter.

Materials Available Online

If a child forgets or loses his or her documents, they can be downloaded from the Office of Emergency Services website at ReadySanDiego.org.

They can find all the documents listed including the Family Plan in multiple languages.

Collection of Checklists

The PTA will collect the Checklists and provide the shirts to the students. Work with your site administrator about that process.

Questions

If anyone has any questions about the program and or the process feel free to contact one of the individuals below.

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 2. Leslie Luke 858-565-3490
 3. Jess Martinez 760-290-2663
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